

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 1, 2012
Anchorage Fire Training Center
1150 Airport Heights Road, Room 4B
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Cieplak
Don DeVoe
Tony Follett
Jim Powell, Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Armstrong*
Kimball Forrest*
Greg Pearce*

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

MRI ATCT – Brian Ochs, Manager
Lake Hood Seaplane Base – Tim Coons, Manager
Bryant Army Airfield – Erik Johnson

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Alex Jumao-as, Assistant Airport Manager
Darlene Sivyer, Commission Secretary (343-6303)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jim Powell, Commission Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Airport Commissioners and meeting attendees introduced themselves.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the September 6, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

Alex Jumao-as noted that the Airport Manager, David Lundeby, is on vacation and that he will report on Dave's behalf. Alex reported that there were four noise complaints during the past two months: two of the complaints were generated from low-flying helicopter operations, one complaint referred to an aircraft straight out departure on Runway 23 and one complainant noted late-night touch-and-goes on runway 25. Dave followed up with the pilots and explained Merrill Field's 'Fly Friendly' program.

4. AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT (continued)

No vehicle/pedestrian deviations have been recorded since September. There are a total of two VPDs to date.

On September 25, the Municipal Assembly accepted the Internal Auditor's recommendation to reauthorize the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission. The Commission is scheduled to sunset in October 2015, unless it is reauthorized at that time.

Three Commissioners' terms expired in October. Dick Armstrong has been reappointed to the Commission; however, the terms for seats held by Kimball Forrest and Tony Follett have been extended for up to 120 days or until these seats are filled.

The Taxiway Quebec Rehabilitation, Phase 3 project is completed, and the work area at Taxiways Quebec and Golf is open to regular aircraft traffic. The Security Improvement Phase 2 project which includes an upgrade to the security camera system, fiber optic installation along Merrill Field Drive, and apron lighting is being rebid. The bid package will be submitted to the Purchasing Department this month.

Alex noted that John McPherson, HDR, will give a presentation on the Merrill Field Master Plan later in the meeting.

Carl Siebe asked Alex if there were any issues with the dynamic compaction process this summer. Alex replied that there were no new issues this summer.

5. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A. MRI Air Traffic Control Tower

Brian Ochs reported that he is working with FAA Flight Standards on noise complaints. Increasing broadcast professionalism is an ongoing priority and improvements in this area have been noted.

B. UAA Aviation Technology Division

None.

C. Elmendorf Airfield Operations

None.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base

Tim Coons noted that winter preparations are being made at Lake Hood. Ice conditions on the lake are being monitored; currently the ice is about 4 inches deep at the edge of the lake. As soon as the lake can accommodate ski operations, tiedown permits for this area will be available.

Lake Hood runway 13/31 will be designated 14/32 on November 15 to reflect the updated magnetic variation. Signage is already in place and ready to be unveiled. The change will be published in the next Alaska Supplement, and NOTAMS will also be issued.

D. Lake Hood Seaplane Base (continued)

Tim added that he is new to Lake Hood operations and it was a busy summer. Thirty floatplane slips were filled, and he is make progress as he sorts through paperwork

Tim concluded by noting that Lake Hood is in the process of introducing a Sport Pilot Category to Title 17 of the Alaska Administrative Code. Internal deliberations about this option are being conducted now which will be followed by public notification.

Carl Siebe asked if rate increases will be implemented at Lake Hood. Tim responded that there will be increases across the board, but he is not sure how the increases will affect tiedown rates. A Lake Hood Users Group meeting is will be held in January, 2013, and more rate information should be available at that meeting.

Brian asked Tim if the lake is open. Tim replied that it is still closed as they are assessing ice conditions; the ice needs to be 12" thick for operations.

E. Bryant Army Airfield

Eric Johnson reported the comment period on the Federal Register for the proposed Bryant AAF Class D Airspace is now closed. A January 10, 2013 opening may be possible, but the opening needs to coincide with a publication cycle, which might cause the opening to be delayed until March, 2013.

6. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION

A. Merrill Field Master Plan Update and Noise Study - HDR

John McPherson, HDR Project Manager, explained that to capture data for the Noise Study, noise monitoring was conducted this past summer, and additional monitoring will be conducted the last week of November or early in December. Also, HDR is collecting information to provide an inventory of Merrill Field assets. John noted that the number of operations has declined over time. This data and information from other airport Master Plan predictions will be used to forecast Merrill Field operations. Overall, the operation baseline is generally flat with minimal growth projected at many airports.

This information is used in the Master Plan Phase I Report. The Airport has reviewed a draft report and it will be available for comment. The Airport Advisory Group will meet later this month. Project information is accessible on the Merrill Field and the Master Plan websites.

Following FAA approval of the Phase I Report, HDR will formulate Merrill Field development alternatives for the next phase of the Master Plan Update.

A. Merrill Field Master Plan Update and Noise Study – HDR (continued)

Jamie Simes commented that she attended a noise workshop this past summer and there was a robust conversation regarding Merrill Field aircraft noise. She asked if those comments led to additional noise monitoring. John responded that additional monitoring is not required for FAA modeling purposes, but the Airport requested winter monitoring to see what impact no vegetation and snow-covered ground has on aircraft noise. John also added that noise measuring is a supplemental snapshot based on an annual average.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AVIATION

None.

10. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Jim Cieplak noted that Dave Lundeby, Merrill Field Manager, will be retiring at the end of November and asked what the Commission could do to recognize Dave. The group agreed to circulate a resolution recommending the Assembly recognize Dave for his service to Merrill Field. Jim Powell agreed to draft a Recognition Resolution and send it to the other Commissioners for approval.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.